

# The Lifted Tack

WEBSITE: <http://home.hiwaay.net/~mssc/> (also: [www.sailmssc.com](http://www.sailmssc.com))  
WebMaster: John Glasscock

DECEMBER 17, 2006

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2007

As the Commodore Elect, normally I would wait until I actually got into office to give everyone a preview of what's coming up in 2007 but because the new Board for 2007 has been working with the old Board over the past two months, and given that many of the decisions that we, as a club make, are driven by the budget which has to be approved in January of 07, I thought I would go ahead and give the club members advanced notice of what the 07 Board is considering.

If any member has any comments or suggestions, then the best thing to do would be to either call me at work 764-3941 or email me at [JJAttorneys@aol.com](mailto:JJAttorneys@aol.com) or email the entire Board. Our club website has a link in its "members only" section on how to do that.

Here's what's up for discussion and consideration:

1. Participation in overall regattas and club races: I appointed a task force to look into our club's participation in our racing programs and find ways to increase it. I asked Todd Travers, who is also our Fleet Captain and in charge of setting our race schedule, to lead this group and address several areas of our sailing program.

I also asked Horace, Gar, Nolan and Byron to join Todd on the task force in presenting ideas on how we may improve our participation to the Board at its January meeting. I have pointed out to the task force members what I thought our strengths are, and where we are deficient. I have also suggested a number of ideas for them to consider and I have invited the task force to come up with their own ideas and to prepare a presentation and/or report where they have, at minimum, 3 new ideas to address overall participation in race related activities.

Briefly, I have told Todd and the other task force members that I perceive that

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Joel VerPlank  
766-3652

**1st Vice Commodore**  
(Clubhouse)  
Bob Bucher  
757-7200

**2nd Vice Commodore**  
(Land)  
John Glasscock  
710-1960

**3rd Vice-Commodore**  
(Docks & Racks)  
Rick Milberger  
767-3252

**Secretary**  
(Memberships, etc.)  
Liz Stagg  
256-533-9894

**Treasurer**  
(\$)  
Andy Keenum  
766-9301

**Sail Master**  
(Training/Sail Camp/  
Slips)  
Rick McAdams  
767-6610

**Fleet Captain**  
(Racing)  
Byron Jamerson  
383-0520

**Recreation Officer**  
(Socials)  
LarryGautney  
767-0467

**Newsletter Editor**  
Bob Parrish  
740-0131

our participation is strongest in our dinghy fleet and in particular, our Vice-Commodores regatta, which we invite a number of out-of-town fleets to participate. The fact that we have a large turnout at this regatta from out of town participants is due to the fact that a growing number of our cub members are traveling and racing at other venues, which in turns causes, other fleets to reciprocate and come here.

We also have made great strides in improving our college and juniors program through the purchase of the 420s and we will continue to support that effort with the purchase of addition sails and equipment this spring. As for the cruisers, our best-attended regatta for this class is the Al Sellers' Dam Race. In each of the past two years, participation has totaled close to 20 boats. However, in all the other regattas, participation, especially among the cruising class, both spinnaker and non-spinnaker, is drastically falling off, often only one or two MSSC boats. In some cases, the Wheeler boats outnumber the MSSC boats and we rarely travel to WYC to participate. I have asked the task force to consider the following, as well as come up their own ideas.

(1) Do we need to have a mentoring program to help inexperienced sailors get more racing experience. (Nolan's idea and a good one) Some clubs use a mentoring program where they combine an experienced skipper with an inexperienced skipper and allow him/her to sail with this person so that they can race with an experienced skipper as either crew/skipper on the inexperienced skipper's boat. The idea is to pair the two together in order to increase the level of knowledge, confidence and thus, hopefully, participation. How and when to do it are the real challenges.

(2) Do we need to have one regatta where we only have a dinghy class, thus allowing all of our cruising skippers to sail in the extra dinghies that we have and then have another regatta where we only have a cruising class, thus there would be more crew available for all the cruisers. This is what the sailing club does near Little Rock, Arkansas, but they do it on a 6-month basis. I think that is a little too drastic at this time but I think the idea of limiting the number of classes in order to increase the pool of participates and available crew is worth considering especially if it's done during the regattas that are run in the shoulder seasons. Example, you might have cruisers only during our early April regatta and have dinghies only during our Confederate Admiral's regatta or V.C. regatta in August. Let's have an open mind about this and consider doing it on a trial basis.

(3) Are our regattas being held at the right time of year?

(4) Do we need to have another Dam Race or overnight cruise?

(5) Do we need to have more than one sail camp?

(6) Do we need more training events?

Of course, the task force is free to come up with their own ideas, and we will be brainstorming these ideas and the tasks forces proposals at the January meeting. Please contact Todd or me if you have an idea

or suggestion after all, Nolan did without being prompted.

2. Security at the Club. As many of you know, the Gillinghams are leaving as permanent residents at the Club and moving just south of Nashville. They have indicated that they are still going to be Club members and intend to keep their boat at the Club, but they will not be occupying the trailer as their primary residence. This leaves the “security” question in doubt and one idea that has been proposed is that the Club install a security gate.

There are several clubs around the southeast, including Privateer and the Birmingham Sail Club that have gates for security purposes. We don't have one, but we are strongly considering it. I know that in the past, several members have strongly suggested that we need a gate (e.g. Don McCullough made this suggestion to the board back in 04) and this may be the time to do it. We are considering this in our budget for 2007. What do you think?

3. We also want to know if anyone is interested in either buying or renting the trailer from the Gillinghams. The 2006 Board agreed that the Gillinghams could keep their trailer on the property until the end of June of 2007 in order to give them a reasonable opportunity to sell the trailer without having to move it beforehand. If any member is interested in purchasing, renting or renting-to-own the trailer, then they need to make arrangements with the Gillinghams directly. The only issue for the Board to consider is who will be occupying the trailer on Club property if it or another one is located on the premises. We are interested in having a full-time resident if possible. The Gillinghams have provided an overwhelming valuable service by being residents on the property in not only looking out for the facility and your boat when the water rises or falls, but also in general, by having someone present if a problem arises.

4. The Board is also considering clearing a substantial part of the property “north” of where we currently park our trailable boats. This area is heavily wooded and thick with under brush and will require a professional with a dozer or some other earth-moving equipment to complete this task. It's not an inexpensive project, but several members feel it is necessary to enhance our property's appeal, increase the parking area and/or add additional room for trailable boats. We are running out of space. The Board has not taken a position on this matter, but there is some interest in this and we will be looking at whether it is feasible and a priority. Your thought's please?

5. The Board has also set aside \$2,000 for dredging the harbor, which will go into a Dredge Fund. We used to have a dredge fund but I'm not certain what happened to it. We will have to accumulate funds over time in order to pay for dredging. I have also asked John Glasscock to get a bid for a new launch and/or hoist with temporary docking for the front part of the Club. I want to have this information available to Club members as we consider our permanent enhancements via the clubhouse project when it comes time to make that decision.

6. Clubhouse. 2007 is the year to pick our clubhouse design. We will start working on the project later in the spring, and we will have more information regarding the process in announcements later. We have plenty of time to make a decision. Based on our current economics and funding, the earliest that we could realistically start to build would be in February or March 2008, and it may be later than that. By that time, the harbor loan will have been paid off, and in fact, it may be paid off even earlier than that.

7. Wine-Tasting Party. Our first major social function is our Wine and Cheese party, which Todd and Larry have scheduled for February 3, 2007. It will be in the late afternoon. We thought we would change it up a little bit this year and have a "wine-tasting" party. You will still need to bring your cheese tray, dessert and/or appetizer, but instead of bringing a bottle of wine, we will have the wine already there. You will get to sample several varieties (in small quantities, of course) and we will pick our favorites. By doing a blind wine-tasting test, you might be surprised at the wines you like without respect to either price or the marketing label. It will be fun, and will also have a time to socialize with each other and catch up as well as announce our social and racing schedule at that time. More details later by email.

8. We are going to make a strong push or bid at the annual DIRYA meeting on January 20, 2008, in Chattanooga to host the 2007 DIYRA Portsmouth Championship to be held in conjunction with the Nolan and Helen Richards Regatta, a/k/a "Little America's Cup." This is the Portsmouth Handicap Systems 45<sup>th</sup> year in existence and MSSC has the distinction of hosting the longest running regatta using the Portsmouth handicap and the oldest trophy given utilizing this system. We also have the good fortune to have the co-founder of the Portsmouth handicap, Dr. Richards, as a founding member and active participant in our club

I think this would be a great way to honor the Richards for their contributions to the MSSC and in creating the Portsmouth handicap by bring this annual regional regatta to our club during 2007. I'll give it my best effort to get it here.

Wow, that is a lot of stuff to consider for the first two months of 2007. LOL! ("Laugh Out Loud" for those of you non-Internet folks.) I can't wait to hit the ground running in January. Hope you can keep up.

Merry Christmas

Willson Jenkins

***Editor's Note:***

***Don't stop now. There's lots more stuff you need to know in the remaining pages of this, the final 2006 issue of your Club's Newsletter.***

***RMP***

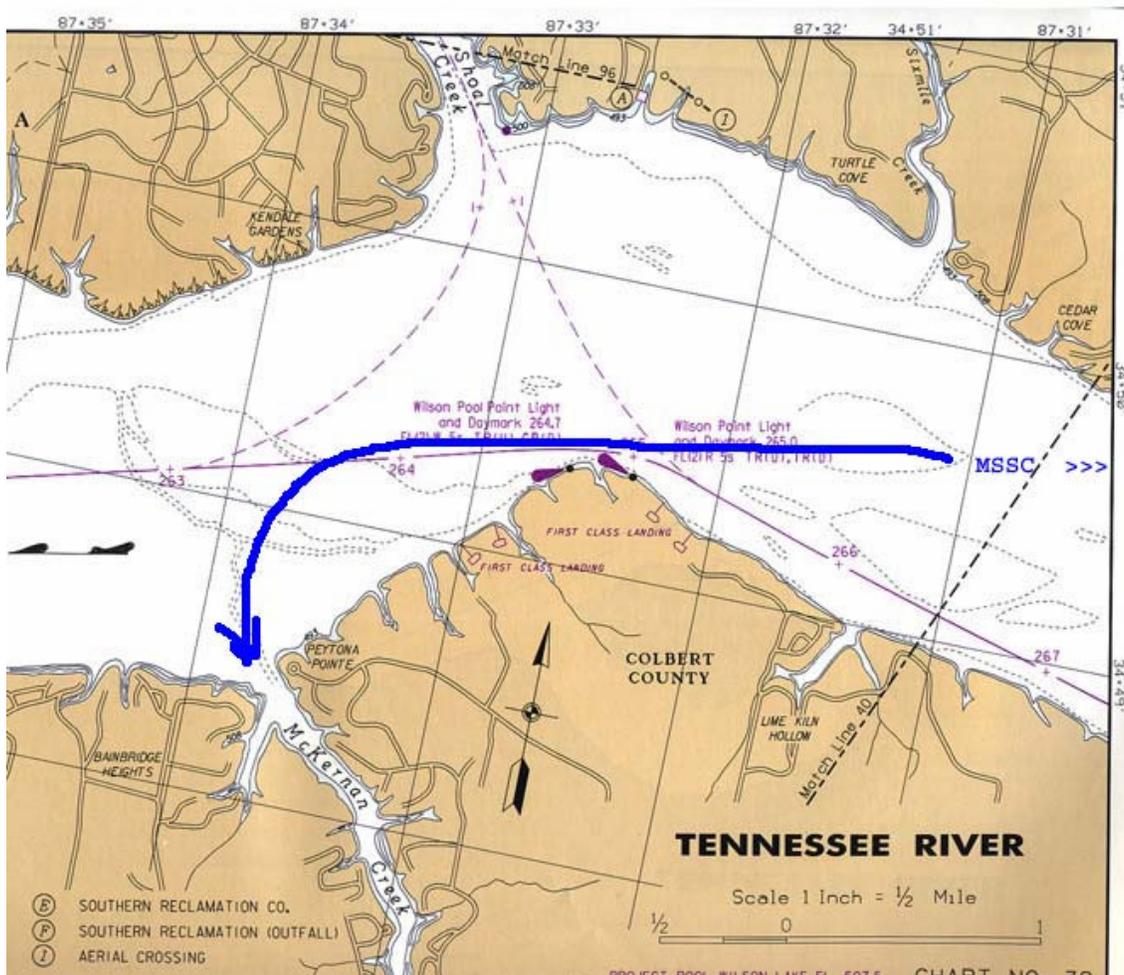
# NEW YEAR'S DAY CRUISE

Horace and Betty Holland invite you to cruise to their new home on McKlernan Creek (Donegan's Slough) New Years Day Jan. 1, 2007

Plan on leaving the club around 9:00 AM. Sail down to their place for chili, beer and football. Horace' has bought a new 42 inch wall mounted plasma TV for the occasion. It takes about 1-1/2 hours to motor from Horace's to the club so we'll leave in time to be back before dark.

Horace's place is about a mile up McKlernan Creek on the East shore. You'll see his Ultimate 20 on the lift. The first boats will tie up to his dock and later ones will raft up.

Please call Horace and Betty if you're coming at 256 446-3367 or cell 762-2616 They need to know how much Chili to make. This cruise will be rescheduled in the event of bad weather



## ***Notes from the Sail Master***

This is my last article for the Lifted Tack as your Sail Master. Steve Blazier has been elected Sail Master for 2007-08. Congratulations Steve, may you enjoy the experience as much as I did.

I want to thank the club members for this learning, rewarding and yes, at time fun experience. I encourage all new members to become involved in the club activities. It's a great way to meet the members, make new friends and share your enjoyment of sailing.

Many things have been accomplished over the last two years, but there is still more to do.

The dry storage has been reorganized, trailers are numbered so we know who owns them, more importantly, who to bill for the storage fee. The boats on trailers have been lined up for easy access. However, we are running out of room and need to clear some property for more storage. If we want to increase the membership, we need a place for their boats.

The club boat equipment has been moved to a new storage shed. Now the equipment is organized and readily accessible. This was critical as the sails and equipment were in danger of being damaged in the old shed and it was impossible to find anything. Even more so, now that the club fleet has expanded to five Lasers, four 420s, two Sunfishes, one Snipe and even a canoe. The catboat was not being used and sold on E-bay for \$1200.00. The new shed could use some lights and a deck in front.

The annual Sail Camp was renamed Sailing Seminar to change the focus from youths to adults. Both years were successful with around 30 students, many became members. Enough interest was expressed that we've been asked to consider a second seminar in the fall.

We now have five Jr. members. With this nucleus and the expanded club fleet it's time to start a Jr. Sailing Program. We also need to establish better communication with our affiliate, the UAH Charger Sailing Club. We need to know what their goals are and how we can support them. The future of the club is with the youth; let's not ignore them.

Again let me express my thanks for all the help I received this past two years and my appreciation for the new friendships.

Rick McAdams  
2005-06 Sail Master.

# Farewell Message from the Commodore

It has been a pleasure, honor and adventure serving as Commodore of MSSC. The past two years have been the equivalent of operating a small business. Good and bad things happen when least expected. Thanks to our good and thoughtful board members and hard working club members, goals have been met and problems solved. I feel very fortunate to have such great people to work with.

I remain ready to serve the club in any way possible to strengthen its educational, social, physical assets and general sailing activities. I look forward to being a part of our growing and changing club.

And now for some unfinished business: Our largest physical work project this year was our dock refinishing. The following people participated in this and deserve a special "Thank You". Rick Milberger, Chairman; Steve Blazier, Russ Kerl, Larry Gautney, Dave Seborg, T.L. Coker, Allen Wall, Nolan Richards, Allan Fegenbush, Randy Stout, John Glasscock, Don VonTress, Bob Stagg, Al Tidwell, Rick McAdams and Bob Parrish.

And speaking of Bob Parrish, this is the final edition of The Lifted Tack in his second separated term as editor. We have enjoyed the information that he has organized for us over the years. I know that it has not been easy getting the contributors to always get their articles in on time. Thanks, Bob, and we are looking forward to working with you over the next several years.

My best wishes to the new Commodore, Willson Jenkins, and the new Board of Directors. I can tell from our transition meetings that they are eager and able to move our club forward.

Sincerely, Joel VerPlank, Commodore 2005 & 2006

## ***IMPORTANT NOTICE***

The January meeting of the MSSC Board of Governors will begin at 6:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 17th, 2007 at the law offices of Jester and Jenkins, 117 E. Mobile Plaza, Florence, AL.

# The Lifted Tack

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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## THE LIFTED TACK

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### *Notes and Asides from the Editor/Publisher:*

First, a current list of those who have agreed to receive *The Lifted Tack* electronically thus saving trees, storage space, copying charges, and postage cost. We now have twenty eight members and one non-member on electronic delivery. Please remember that we are not proposing to send the newsletter as an attachment to an e-mail, but to send you an e-mail alert that the latest edition has been posted on the Club's website where you can read, copy, and always know exactly where to find it throughout the year.

Gar Bouse	Charlie Anding	Horace Holland	Tom Brown	Tom Cromer	Bill Campbell
Bob Parrish	Jeff Compton	John Glasscock	Tommy Glenn	Bob Stagg	Joel VerPlank
Glenn Miller	Joyce Sellers	The Milbergers	Ernie Fite	Larry Gautney	Paul Jacobs
Andy Keenum	Bill Parkhurst	The Gillinghams	Bob Kuehlthau	Chris McGraw	Bob Bucher
Jerry Ferry	Brett Wood	Floyd Hauffe	Scott Hickman	Matthew Massey	

Any member who would like to join this group can email: [joglass@comcast.net](mailto:joglass@comcast.net)

**Last, but not least, please be reminded that the January Meeting of the MSSC Board of Governors will be held at 6:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 17th, 2007 at the law offices of Jester and Jenkins, 117 East Mobile Plaza, Florence, AL.**